

Sisters' S. C. E.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

For a few weeks my pen has been silent but my voice has not. At my last writing I was at West Independence and from there I went to Pioneer, to the new Bethesda Church to hold a protracted meeting. There, you remember, Brother Shively dedicated their church for them a few months ago. It is a very neat cosy structure, a very easy house to talk in, and they are justly proud of it. Our meeting began with good congregations, and after a few days, there seemed to be bright prospects, and then came a change of weather, and roads that were almost impossible, and continued either extremely muddy or frozen and very rough almost all the time during the meeting. You, who are accustomed to city streets or gravelled roads, or pikes, should visit Pioneer in the early spring time,—then you will appreciate the faithfulness of these people, who came, some of them five, six and seven miles, almost every night to these services. The pastor, brother D. M. Rittenhouse, lives six miles from the church, but missed only one evening service. The immediate results of the meeting were five baptized, and two yet to be baptized. There are also two others, converted elsewhere, who will accept our baptism and unite with the brethren. During the meeting, a baptistery was put into the church, and the five baptized in it—the others prefer the stream.

At the close of the protracted effort, we presented the interests of the S. S. C. E. and, without a dissenting voice changed the Ladies Aid Society to an S. S. C. E. adding about ten new members. They will continue their work as formerly, and I think, hold Sunday evening meetings, using the S. S. C. E. programs. This will be decided next Sunday.

With this communication, I send another program, prepared by brother W. D. Furry of South Bend, Ind. I think you will find it an interesting, helpful and instructive one.

I am now at Bryan, and will meet with the Ladies Aid Society to-day. This is one of the most energetic little societies in the brotherhood, but with the obligation they have taken upon themselves for their home church, we hardly dare ask them at present to help the national work. The membership of the church is very small, yet they have a nice, commodious house, neatly finished, and if the sisters continue to work as they have been working, and the brethren work equally well, it will not be long until their house will be clear of all indebtedness.

From here I go to Brighton, Ind. I will visit the churches of south western Ohio, later. Wishing all the Societies and Churches success and God's richest blessings I am, yours in His name.

LAURA E. N. GROSSNICKLE.

FROM MILLEDGEVILLE, ILL.

As I was reading the EVANGELIST I thought, why could I not write something that would be interesting to our S. S. C. E. sisters. We have a good society here at Milledgeville. We have over thirty members. We meet once in two weeks, on Friday afternoon. We make bonnets, mits, quilts, etc. We gave a supper for the Knights of the Globe, which amounted to \$33, and all expenses paid. In '95 we made \$130, and with the help of our Master we are looking forward to a more prosperous year this year. Sisters pray for us in this work.

MARY S. FLEMING.

FROM CORNELL, ILL.

Again we pen a few lines for the Sister's column. And though there are not many news, yet we can say we are still moving along towards Zion. We find the S. S. C. E. work like all other work, there must be new thoughts, new ideas, plans and suggestions, from different ones, or we find ourselves getting into an old rut and consequently will die out in a very short time.

Our Society is one that is always striving for the good things; and for the things that will interest and benefit those who come to enjoy them. Since our last communication we gave a literary entertainment, and this being our first experience in that line of work, and having so little confidence in ourselves, as to its being a success, we thought it expedient to go to a private house for the meeting. Those who are acquainted with Cornell, know Brother Vanderree's is the place to go to have a good time in the Lord; the sisters, brothers and young people became interested in the work and did all they could to make the evening an enjoyable one.

The program was furnished by the program committee, such as Miscellaneous, consisting of essays, declamations, readings, etc. We highly praise the young people, for their part was well rendered and appreciated by a large and attentive audience. I believe with a little practice we need not hesitate to go to a public place for a meeting of this kind. We are progressing nicely with our quilt, and we call to memory those who have so kindly responded to our request. We admire that Christian spirit which seems to say, We want to see our "brothers' church" prosper as well as "our church."

As we have said before, we are poor

financially, but our Father is rich, "God holdeth the wealth of the world in his hands." And if "God be for us, who can be against us." We are working, praying, We are zealous in this cause. We expect to fight on until the victory's won; and though we may be defeated in the end, we will be the last to surrender.

MRS. ALICE J. HOLMES.

March 9, 1896.

WARSAW S. S. C. E.

The S. S. C. E. of the Brethren church at Warsaw, Ind., pledges itself to pay to the State Mission Board, April 1, the sum of five dollars for the purpose of helping to save the Marion church. The same to be applied if enough money is raised to tide them over for one year. We do most earnestly hope other societies will help what they can in this direction. It is true most of us are poor, but we ought to do what we can to help bear each others burdens.

PROGRAM FOR APRIL. S. S. C. E.

GROWTH IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

Scripture Lesson, II Peter 1: 1-11.

1. Growing up Unto Him in all Things. Eph. 4: 15; 2: 21; Col. 1: 18; II Peter 3: 18; Phil. 1: 9-11; 3: 12-14; I Thess. 3: 12, 13.

2. Aids to Growth. I Peter 2: 2; I Cor. 3: 2; Heb. 5: 12-14; II Cor. 9: 8-11; 12: 7-10; Eph. 6: 10-20; II Tim. 8: 16, 17.

3. Hindrances to Growth. Matt. 13: 18-22; Mark 4: 14-19; 10: 22, 23; Eph. 6: 12; I Tim. 6: 9-17.

4. Tests of Growth. Rom. 6: 22; I Cor. 3: 12, 13; Matt. 7: 16-20; 21: 19; John 7: 17; 8: 12; 15: 8, 16; Eph. 5: 9; Phil. 4: 17; Col. 3: 1-3, 12-14; II Tim. 2: 15, 19-21; 3: 7.

Quotations which illustrate. "If we are connected with Christ, our connection with him should be constantly growing closer, and the line of progress is indicated by these three words: *Believer, Disciple, Apostle*, or their equivalents, *Faith Knowledge, Service*. To be a public representative of Christianity is a mockery and hypocrisy, unless it is accompanied with growing faith in Jesus and fellowship with Him. . . . The power of public testimony depends on intimacy with Jesus in secret.—*Stalker*.

There can be growth only in the spiritually *alive*, not *dead*. Growth in grace, is the true secret of not going backward. The babe, instead of chemically analyzing, instinctively desires and feeds on the milk; so our part is not self-sufficient, rationalizing and questions, but simply receiving the truth in the love of it.